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 Community Journalism



Girl's passion is playing football
-See Page B1



Students write song about Katrina
-See Page A11



Banquet honors young people
-See Page C1

THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005

Better turnout hoped for Nov. 8



Local groups work feverishly to register voters for last year. So far, the effort has not been strong this election season.

Last week's primary had lowest voter participation on record

BY JULIUS A. MCKINLEY JR.
 THE CHRONICLE

Last week's primary has made the record book for its low turnout.

The Board of Elections said that only 5.7 percent of registered voters cast ballots. That is the lowest percentage in a municipal election since the late 1970s, when the Board of Elections first began to keep track of turnout data.

Part of the reason for the low turnout was that there were primaries only in five of the city's eight wards. City Council Members Robert Clark, Dan Besse

and Wanda Merschel faced no opposition Tuesday. Popular incumbent Mayor Allen Joines also was not on the ballot, which many feel kept a lot of voters at home.



Johnson

"With no primary for mayor, a lot of people were not that interested," said Kathie Chastain Cooper, the county's director of elections.

Joines won't be a draw in next month's general election either. The mayor is running unopposed. The possibility of low numbers on Nov. 8 has Joines concerned. He said last week that he will encourage residents to vote and

See Turnout on A5

Jobs center opens in North Winston

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

The city's first community-based job resource center opened last week in a small house on McCreary Street, off of Akron Drive.

The North Winston Community Development Corp. partnered with the Northwest Piedmont Workforce



Gilliam

Development Board to open the Neighborhood Job-Link Resource Center. There are a number of federally-mandated Job-Link Career Centers in Forsyth and surrounding counties. The McCreary Street site is different from those centers.

It will be manned by volunteers who will assist job seekers with résumés, job searching and setting up e-mail accounts. Computers have been placed at the center so that job seekers can search relevant sites. If job seekers need services beyond what is provided at the center, they will be referred to a Job-Link Career Center.

"We see unemployment as one of our biggest problems in this area," said the Rev. Reuban Gilliam, president of the North Winston CDC board. Gilliam's church, North Winston Baptist, started the CDC more than 10 years ago to breathe life into the area. The job-link center is adjacent to the church. The McCreary Street house also serves as the CDC headquarter-

See Jobs on A5



A brother from the local Nation of Islam mosque helps a young girl with her sign.

Muslims make final push for DC unity event

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

The police escort was already in place. About four dozen men, women and children followed suit, arranging themselves in rows of four or five.

They each wore their most comfortable walking shoes and held wooden pickets with posters attached to them.

But a march isn't a march until someone starts a catchy, rhythmic chant. Renee Razzak did the honors Saturday as she and the others began walking along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

"If you wanna be free, come on and go to D.C. If you wanna be free, come on and go to D.C.," Razzak shouted as others joined in.

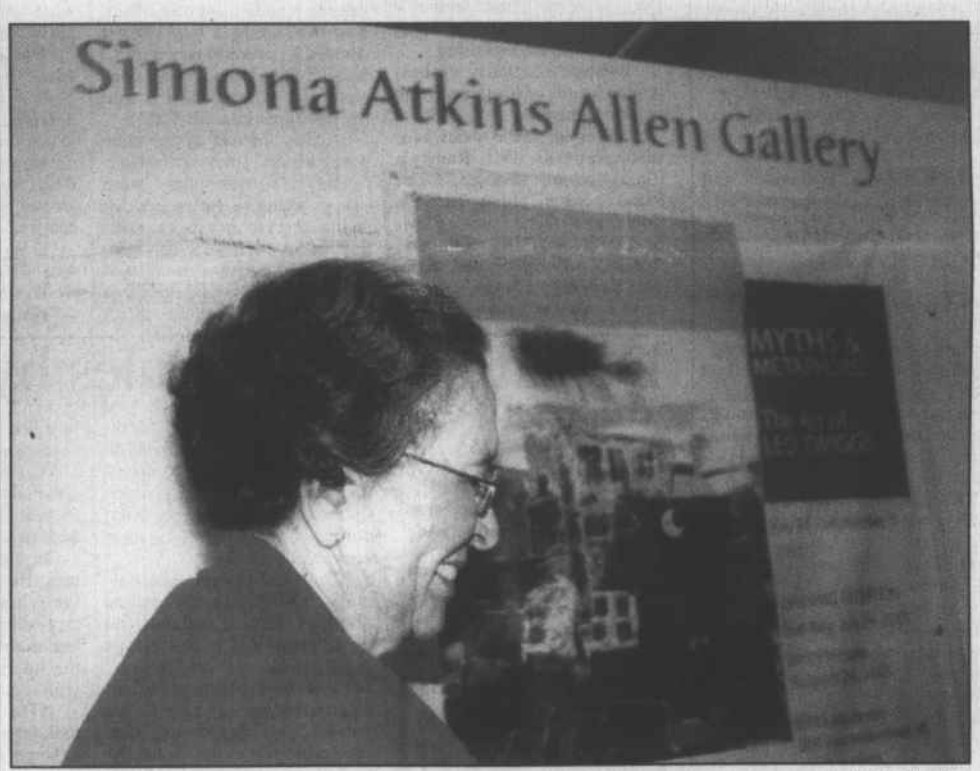
The march, which ended at the Winston Mutual building, was staged by the local Nation of Islam mosque. It was designed to draw more attention to an event in Washington, D.C., later this month that will mark the 10th anniversary of the trailblazing Million Man March. Nation of

See MMM on A4



Farrakhan

IN HER HONOR



Simona Atkins Allen smiles as her friends and family members applaud her. The gallery at the new Delta Arts Center was named for Allen on Saturday. She has been involved with the center for more than 30 years. To read more about Allen, see page A10.

Photo by Kevin Walker

BY KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

A building on Trade Street that several black business owners had to vacate will soon be no more.

City and business leaders were on hand last week for a ceremony to unveil Trader's Row, the new five-story, mixed-used structure that will replace the dilapidated city-owned building. The ceremony, where attendees got a chance to gawk at a colorful, poster-size artist rendering of the new building, was held adjacent to the site on the rear deck of the Millennium Center.

"It is a great new investment for our downtown area," Mayor Allen Joines said during the ceremony.

Five local businesses - The Chapman Co., ISP Sports, Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce, Samet Corp., and Cavanaugh - have partnered to form Trade Street LLC, which plans to invest heavily in down revitalization in the years to



Paige



Photo by Kevin Walker

Mayor Allen Joines speaks at last week's ceremony. Behind him is the mastermind of the project, Chris Chapman.

come. Trader's Row is the partners' initial project. The 110,000-square-foot building will be parts residential, business, retail and restaurant. ISP Sports, a collegiate marketing firm, already

has dibs on the ground floor of the building. The firm plans to have a "Today" show-like television studio where the public can watch live

See Trade on A11

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